

# ***FRIENDSHIP***

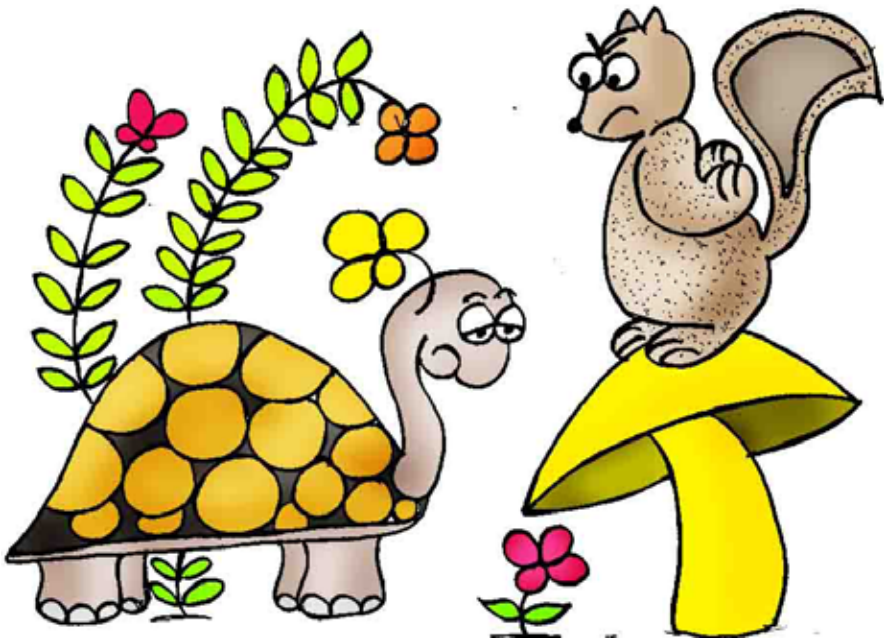
*How Squi, the squirrel became the friend of Tor, the tortoise*

There lived a squirrel named Squi in a big old tree. A big tortoise named Tor lived on the ground under the shade of the tree for many years.

Squi, the squirrel was very graceful. She had a hairy body and a big curved tail. Squi was restless and always jumped from one branch of the tree to another branch. She was very proud of her complexion and nature.

Tor, on the other hand, was fat and slow. He remained in the same place for hours. the colour of his shield had no glamour. He was simple and innocent.





Tor wanted to be friend with Squi for a long time. He had requested Squi many times to be friend with him. But Squi did not like Tor as Tor was neither very beautiful nor very smart.

Disappointed Tor always returned home with a depressed state of mind.



Then one day a violent storm hit the area. Squi flew off from the branch of the tree and fell on the ground due to severe stormy wind.

When the storm ended, Squi slowly tried to come to his tree home crossing the grassy ground.

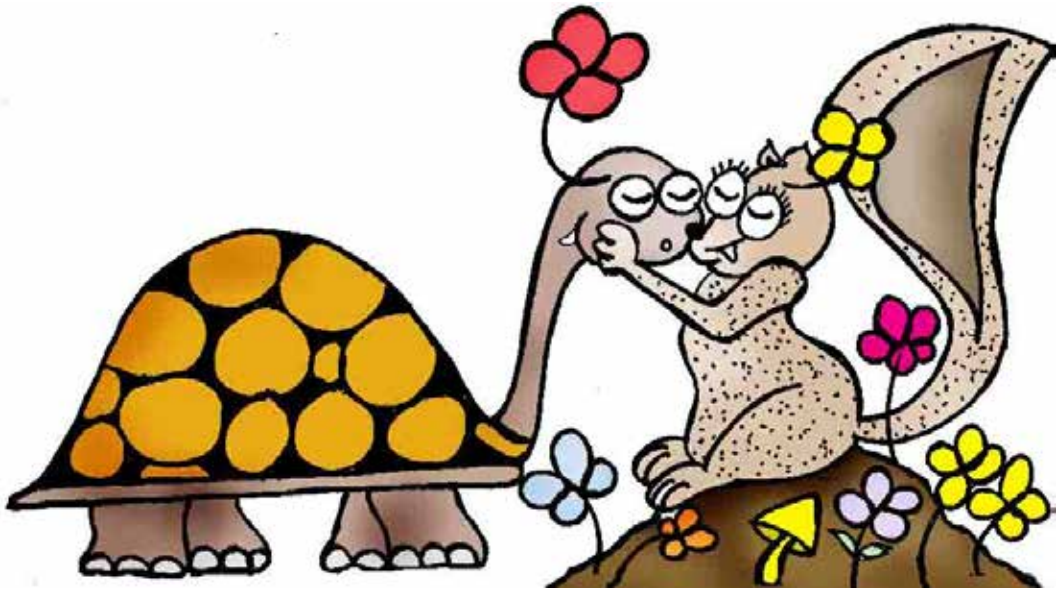




However, a hungry hunting bird took shelter in a nearby tree to stay safe from the storm. He noticed Squi crossing the ground. Squirrels are the delicious food of the hunting birds. The bird spreading his huge wide wings jumped upon Squi to catch him with his sharp nails.



Tor, the tortoise, saw that the hunting bird was trying to kill Squi. Before the bird could catch Squi, Tor immediately covered the squirrel with his body. The hunting bird could not catch Squi due to Tor's hard shell. Sitting on Tor's back, the bird repeatedly hit the shell with his sharp beak but failed to do anything and eventually flew away.



Squi expressed her gratitude to Tor for saving her life. The glamourless tortoise smiled. Squi finally accepted Tor's friendship and they became friends forever.



# a **redrhino** effort

Told and illustrated by abhijit dattagupta